

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 046885

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ORIGIN PA-03

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-19 PM-09 EUR-25 USIA-12 RSC-01 ADP-00

/070 R

DRAFTED BY PA/ PG: HSFOSTER/ DFBARRETT: DS

3/14/73 EXT 22376

APPROVED BY PA/ PG- DBROWN

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

ACDA, PM, EUR, PA, USIA

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P R 141757 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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USDEL SALT TWO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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DISTO/ SALT

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

GENEVA FOR KRAUS ALSO

VIENNA FOR MBFR DELEGATION

HELSINKI FOR MPT

INFO FOR PAOS

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PAGE 02 STATE 046885

1. HIGHLIGHTS. TUESDAY WEDNESDAY PAPERS STRESSED DOMESTIC TOPICS. INSIDE TUESDAY NYTIMES AND BALTSUN HAD SALT STORIES; WASHPOST HAD TROOP- CUT BRIEF FROM BRUSSELS AND

LOCAL REPORTING REP. ASPIN ON DEFENSE BUDGET. INSIDE WEDNESDAY NYTIMES HAS MIDDLETON WASHINGTON REPORTING OFFICIAL HOPE THAT IN VIEW FRENCH ELECTION OUTCOME FRANCE MAY NOW SETTLE US CLAIMS ARISING FROM EVICTION OF US MILITARY IN 1966-7. NOTHING WEDNESDAY ON SALT. LITTLE COMMENT.

2. SALT. BALTSUN GENEVA REUTER REPORTED NEGOTIATORS MET FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS MONDAY, OPENING A NEW ROUND OF TALKS ON CURBING STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE WEAPONS, REUTER ADDING JOHNSON CALLED ON SEMONOV AT SOVIET MISSION FOR THE DIS-

CUSSIONS. REUTER REPORTED CONFERENCE SOURCES SAID DELEGATES WOULD MEET AGAIN TUESDAY BUT IT WASN' T IMMEDIATELY CLEAR WHETHER THIS WOULD INVOLVE ENTIRE DELEGATIONS. REUTER SAID SALT TALKS ARE CONDUCTED IN STRICT SECRECY AND OFFICIALS REFUSED TO SAY WHAT WAS DISCUSSED MONDAY, BUT INFORMED SOURCES SAID THEY BELIEVED THE MEETING WAS TAKEN UP LARGEY WITH PROCEDURAL MATTERS, WITH REAL BARGAINING EXPECTED TO BEGIN LATER. IN THIS SECOND PHASE OF SALT, REUTER SAID, NEGOTIATORS AIM TO TIE UP A COMPREHENSIVE TREATY LIMITING OFFENSIVE WEAPONS BOTH IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY, THUS REPLACING OR FOLLOWING INTERIM 5- YEAR AGREEMENT.

2 A. TUESDAY NYTIMES GENEVA SPECIAL STRESSED RESUMPTION OF SECOND ROUND AIMED AT LIMITING STRATEGIC NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS, AS SEMYONOV WAS HOST TO JOHNSON IN A MEETING OF ONE HOUR AND 50 MINUTES. STORY NOTED ACHIEVEMENTS OF SALT ONE AND ADDED LAST YEAR CURRENT ROUND BEGAN WITH OBJECTIVE OF CONVERTING FIVE- YEAR AGREEMENT INTO A PERMANENT TREATY ON OFFENSIVE ARMS. STORY SAID NO INFORMATION ON MONDAY' S TALKS WAS AVAILABLE BECAUSE OF WHAT JOHNSON HAS TERMED THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE TALKS BUT IT WAS ANNOUNCED A SECOND MEETING WOULD BE HELD TUESDAY. STORY SAID CURRENT ROUND COULD LAST THREE TO FOUR YEARS, ADDING THAT MAJOR OBSTACLE WAS REPORTED TO BE MOSCOW' S INSISTENCE ON INCLUD- UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 046885

ING THE 700 AMERICAN AIRCRAFT BASED IN EUROPE OR ON CAR-

RIERS WITHIN FLYING RANGE OF RUSSIA WHEREAS US SAYS PRIMARY MISSION OF THESE PLANES IS DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE. STORY ADDED THAT ANOTHER STUMBLING- BLOCK IS SOVIET OBJECTION TO THE INDEPENDENT INSPECTION ARRANGEMENTS US CONSIDERS NECESSARY UNDER ANY WEAPONS- LIMITATION TREATY.

3. TROOP CUT. TUESDAY WASHPOST BRIEF FROM BRUSSELS REPORTED NATO PUT FORWARD NEW PROPOSAL TO BREAK DEADLOCK ON TROOP REDUCTIONS OVER ISSUE OF WHICH NATIONS SHOULD TAKE PART. ACCORDING STORY, A SPOKESMAN SAID LUNS COMMUNICATED TO THE REPRESENTATIVES IN VIENNA A MESSAGE ALLOWING THEM TO MAKE A FURTHER EFFORT WITH WARSAW COUNTRIES TO ENABLE TALKS TO PROCEED.

4. DEFENSE. TUESDAY WASHPOST HAD LOCAL REUTER REPORTING REP. ASPIN WARNED THAT PROJECTED COST OF NEW BOEING BOMBER MISSILE COULD INCREASE BY 600 MILLIONS, DEPENDING ON WHO WINS INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE AT PENTAGON MEETING THIS FRIDAY. ACCORDING REUTER, ASPIN, A FORMER PENTAGON OFFICIAL, SAID DISPUTE IS BETWEEN SAC AND PENTAGON OVER

CAPABILITIES TO BE GIVEN NEW MISSILE CALLED SCAD AND WHETHER IT SHOULD BE CARRIED BY B-52 S, WITH PENTAGON OFFICIALS FAVORING A MORE SOPHISTICATED MISSILE THAT COULD BE MORE THAN A DECOY.

5. COMMENT. LAST SATURDAY NYPOST SAID MOST AMERICANS WILL BE INCLINED TO BID A HOPEFUL BON VOYAGE TO SALT NEGOTIATORS, BUT NO MATTER HOW ELOQUENT JOHNSON'S OPENING STATEMENT PERHAPS MOST RELIABLE EXPOSITION OF AMERICAN INTENTIONS IS TO BE FOUND IN BUDGET DOCUMENTS CUTTING ACDA 3.3 MILLIONS WHILE INCREASE FOR PENTAGON R& D ALONE IS 536 MILLIONS-- A SOMBER DEMONSTRATION OF THE PREVAILING ADMINISTRATION ATTITUDE TOWARD SALT.

5 A. ST. LOUIS POST- DISPATCH MARCH 4 ALSO REGRETTED DISMANTLING OF ACDA, STRESSING EXCELLENT US OPPORTUNITY NOW TO PUT FORWARD A CAREFUL MIRV PROPOSAL OFFERING TO CONTROL OR RETRENCH ITS OWN MIRV DEVELOPMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR IMPORTANT SOVIET CONCESSIONS. HENCE, JOURNAL SAYS,
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PAGE 04 STATE 046885

BREAKING UP OF ACDA IS ALMOST TOTALLY INEXPLICABLE. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE046885
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HSFOSTER/DFBARRETT: DS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730328/aaaahrko.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <09-Aug-2001 by maustmc, RDRD>; RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971201
Subject: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE
TAGS: PARM, PINT, US, XG
To: BERLIN
BONN
GENEVA
HELSINKI
LONDON
NATO
PARIS

ROME
SALT TALKS
VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005